

## ARIC MANUSCRIPT PROPOSAL FORM

Manuscript #477

1. a. Title: Levels and trends in CHD and CVD mortality in the ARIC study communities, 1968-92

b. Abbreviated Title: CHD and CVD mortality

2. Writing Group:

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3. Timeline:

July 31, 1997

4. Rationale:

A previous study by the ARIC investigators (1989) examined levels and trends in CHD mortality from 1968 to 1978 and in CVD mortality from 1968 to 1982 among white men and women in Washington County, Maryland, suburban Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Forsyth County, North Carolina, and among African-American men and women in Jackson, Mississippi and Forsyth County, North Carolina. The investigators reported differences in the beginning and ending levels of mortality, an overall decline in CHD and CVD mortality levels, as well as differences in the nature of the decline with respect to ethnicity, gender, and geographic region. For example, the CHD and CVD mortality levels were greater in white men compared to white women. Although the rates for both gender groups declined, the decline was more pronounced in the men. Similarly, among African-Americans the CHD and CVD mortality levels were higher in men than in women throughout the observation period. But, in contrast to the experience in other ARIC sites, the rates in African-American men and women in Jackson increased during this time.

5. Current objectives:

The current work extends the previous findings by examining age-, racial/ethnic-, gender-, and period-specific differences in the levels and trends in CHD and CVD mortality in the state economic areas (SEAs) within which the ARIC study communities are located, 1968-1982. Data are derived from the National Center for Health Statistics Compressed Mortality File. The current study provides an additional 14 years of observation for CHD in the ARIC study communities and an additional nine years for CVD, thus permitting a total observation period of 25 years for these two disease entities. This study departs from the previous one in three major ways: first, the present study examines the CHD and CVD mortality in all the SEAs combined rather than in individual SEAs; second, this study examines age-specific mortality rates at three different time intervals (1968-72; 1978-82; and 1988-92) within the 25-year period rather than age-adjusted rates over 25 continuous years; and third, this investigation compares the levels and trends in the ARIC SEAs with those of the US as a whole, and the levels and trends in the southern ARIC SEAs with those of the US Southeast. These data provide the background against which the ARIC cohort study was begun in 1987 and continues today.

#### 6. Data source:

Data are derived from the National Center for Health Statistics Compressed Mortality File.

#### 7. Reference:

The ARIC Investigators. The decline of ischemic heart disease mortality in the ARIC study communities. International Journal of Epidemiology 1989;18(1) Suppl 1: S88-S98.